

Serial No. 10/726,963

PATENT

### REMARKS

In the Office Advisory Action of July 21, 2008, claims 1 to 12 and 15 to 23 are pending of which claims 1 to 12 and 15 to 23 are rejected under the same grounds as the previous Office Action.

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 5 are amended to specify that the links joining adjacent stents are flexible links using threads or fibres. A similar amendment is made in Claim 17. A consequential amendment is made in Claim 5.

Claims 10 to 12 and 19 are cancelled.

### DISCUSSION

Independent apparatus claims 1 and 17 of this present application both have their flexible links specifically defined as being threads or fibres.

The Examiner in the discussion of the Advisory Action correctly defines a link as "anything serving to connect one thing to another" but has in our opinion has incorrectly decided that the longitudinal bars (25) in the reference Brown are links. These longitudinal bars are not links because they are the same component as the rest of the self expanding stent. They are not a separate component as is necessary to meet the definition given.

Notwithstanding this, the flexible links have now been restricted to threads or fibres. These are not taught or suggested in any of the cited references.

We submit that all claims are not anticipated and are patentable over the cited references.

The reexamination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and it is further requested that the application be passed to issue.

Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to

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further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment.

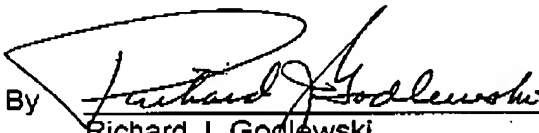
Respectfully submitted,

David Ernest Hartley  
Ian Nixon  
Peter John Mossop

Date:

July 30, 2008

By

  
Richard J. Godlewski  
Reg. No. 30,056  
(812) 330-1824